

CLAIMS

We claim:

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1. A method of providing access to a collection of electronic business cards comprising the steps of:
providing an electronic business card file Web site to a user;
allowing the creation of an electronic business card file by the user using said Web site, said creation comprising:
allowing the user to enter information into a plurality of fields;
storing said information; and
10 sending an authentication email to the user, wherein a reply to said authentication email is required to complete said creation;
allowing the user to search for one or more records;
allowing the user to view said records; and
if said creation is completed, allowing the setting of privacy levels by the user
15 for each said field, said setting comprising selecting one of more than two privacy levels.

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2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from the Internet.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from an intranet isolated from the Internet by a firewall security device.
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4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a web browser.
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5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a personal digital assistant.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a browser-enabled telephone.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible by spoken commands.

5 8. The method of Claim 1, wherein said first format comprises audio playback.

9 A computer system for providing access to a collection of electronic business cards, comprising computer instructions for:

10 providing an electronic business card file Web site to a user; allowing the creation of an electronic business card file by the user using said

15 Web site, said creation comprising:

allowing the user to enter information into a plurality of fields; storing said information; and

sending an authentication email to the user, wherein a reply to said authentication email is required to complete said creation;

allowing the user to search for one or more records;

allowing the user to view said records; and

20 if said creation is completed, allowing the setting of privacy levels by the user for each said field, said setting comprising selecting one of more than two privacy levels.

10. The computer system of Claim 9, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from the Internet.

25 11. The computer system of Claim 9, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from an intranet isolated from the Internet by a firewall security device.

12. The computer system of Claim 9, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a web browser.

13. The computer system of Claim 9, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a personal digital assistant.

14. The computer system of Claim 9, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a browser-enabled telephone.

15. The computer system of Claim 9, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible by spoken commands.

16. The computer system of Claim 9, wherein said first format comprises
audio playback.

17. A computer-readable storage medium, comprising computer instructions for:

15 providing an electronic business card file Web site to a user;
allowing the creation of an electronic business card file by the user using said
Web site, said creation comprising:
allowing the user to enter information into a plurality of fields;
storing said information; and
20 sending an authentication email to the user, wherein a reply to said
authentication email is required to complete said creation;
allowing the user to search for one or more records;
allowing the user to view said records; and
if said creation is completed, allowing the setting of privacy levels by the user
25 for each said field, said setting comprising selecting one of more than
two privacy levels

18. The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 17, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from the Internet.

19. The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 17, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from an intranet isolated from the
5 Internet by a firewall security device.

20. The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 17, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a web browser.

21. The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 17, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a personal digital assistant.

10 22. The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 17, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a browser-enabled telephone.

23. The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 17, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible by spoken commands.

24. The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 17, wherein said first
15 format comprises audio playback.

25. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave, comprising computer instructions for:

20 providing an electronic business card file Web site to a user;
allowing the creation of an electronic business card file by the user using said Web site, said creation comprising:
allowing the user to enter information into a plurality of fields;
storing said information; and
25 sending an authentication email to the user, wherein a reply to said authentication email is required to complete said creation;

allowing the user to search for one or more records;
allowing the user to view said records; and
if said creation is completed, allowing the setting of privacy levels by the user
for each said field, said setting comprising selecting one of more than
two privacy levels.

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26. The computer data signal of Claim 25, wherein said electronic business
card file Web site is accessible from the Internet.

27. The computer data signal of Claim 25, wherein said electronic business
card file Web site is accessible from an intranet isolated from the Internet by a firewall
10 security device.

28. The computer data signal of Claim 25, wherein said electronic business
card file Web site is accessible from a web browser.

29. The computer data signal of Claim 25, wherein said electronic business
card file Web site is accessible from a personal digital assistant.

15 30. The computer data signal of Claim 25, wherein said electronic business
card file Web site is accessible from a browser-enabled telephone.

31. The computer data signal of Claim 25, wherein said electronic business
card file Web site is accessible by spoken commands.

32. The computer data signal of Claim 25, wherein said first format
comprises audio playback.